



CENTER FOR INTERFAITH PROJECTS

Promoting Understanding and Respecting Differences

E-NEWSLETTER: February 2012 David B. Myers, Executive Director

Special note to readers: It has been several months since I published a newsletter. I was sidetracked by a number of health problems, some of which may be symptoms of chronic lymphocytic leukemia, an incurable but slow-moving cancer that weakens the body's ability to fight infection. I was diagnosed with CLL in August, 2011. I make regular visits to the Roger Maris Cancer Center to check on the "progress" of my cancer. I am still in a watch and wait period: this means that the cancer has not yet progressed to the point that I need treatments. It has been a struggle, but I think I am beginning to come to terms with the fact that I have a life-threatening disease. In any event, I am currently doing well, psychologically and physically. As a result of this experience, I would like to organize an interfaith panel on the topic of *spirituality and the challenges of critical illness*. If you are interested in helping me organize this, and/or being a participant on the panel, please let me know.

Upcoming Events

Sunday February 26: An Interfaith Panel on Forgiveness. Although many Christians may think that it is a uniquely Christian theme, most religious traditions affirm the importance of forgiveness but understand the path to it in different ways. The board of directors of the *Center for Interfaith Projects* invites you to join us at the Fargo Public Library (Main Branch) to hear and discuss views on forgiveness from representatives of six religious traditions: Hinduism, Buddhism, Judaism, Christianity, Islam, and the Baha'i faith. A question and answer period will follow. Please come and participate in this important interfaith conversation. 2-4.p.m.

Saturday, March 24: Meet the Mormons. Mitt Romney's attempt to win the Republican nomination for president has increased curiosity about the Mormon faith. The goals of the *Center for Interfaith Projects* include these: to educate the community about different faiths and to promote respect between members of different faith communities. There appears to be widespread ignorance about Mormonism, and, according to a recent poll, nearly half of the Mormons surveyed said that they face significant discrimination in the United States (Pew Research Forum). I will moderate a program designed to help the community better understand our Mormon neighbors. Three Mormons will discuss their faith and answer questions about their beliefs and practices. Saturday, March 24, 2-p.m., at the Fargo Public Library.

Volunteers: If you are interested in helping with the work of the Center, please inform me. We need someone to keep our Facebook page up to date. Also, we need people who have ideas about fundraising and how we might organize fundraising events that have an interfaith theme.

Donations: We depend on your contributions for our work. No contribution is too small. Checks should be made out to Center for Interfaith Projects. They can be sent to 111 Broadway, Fargo, ND 58102. We have a promise of 2:1 matching funds from the Bremer Foundation if we can raise \$7500 by October 22, 2011.

Mission Statement of *Center for Interfaith Projects*

The mission of the *Center* is to:

- **Educate the community about different faiths**
- **Increase understanding and respect among people of different faiths**
- **Foster cooperation among local faith communities to solve common community problems**
- **Help individuals in search of a spiritual home to find one**

If you have ideas for interfaith projects—interfaith panels, ways to build bridges between faith communities, ideas for promoting respect and understanding, etc.—please share them with us. If you are interested in learning about other faiths, contact us. If you are spiritually searching, we have resources to help on your journey.

Call David B. Myers at 701 388-7368 or email the centerforinterfaithprojects.com

Location:

111 Broadway
Fargo, North Dakota 58102

If you wish to visit the Center, call for an appointment: 701 388-7368.

Executive Director: David B. Myers, Judaism

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